Name and brief description of initiative:
Clearinghouse for Neuroimaging Informatics Tools and Resources (initiative under the NIH Neuroscience Blueprint)

Brief description of goals of initiative:
Many neuroimaging tools and databases are underutilized because they are not user-friendly or easily adoptable. This initiative, using the contract mechanism, will establish a web-based clearinghouse for neuroimaging tools, vocabularies, and databases, to facilitate the dissemination of these resources and the discussion of needs and limitations. It will initially focus on functional magnetic resonance imaging.

The specific objective of this contract is to design, establish, maintain, operate, and upgrade an independent Clearinghouse of neuroimaging informatics tools and resources. For neuroimaging informatics tool and resource users, the Clearinghouse will provide:
- a single location to search for needed tools and resources
- a single location to voice needs
- a single location to develop community-based solutions
- a consistent interface for bug reporting for tools and resources
- a consistent interface for feature requests for tools and resources

For neuroimaging informatics tools and resource developers, the Clearinghouse will provide:
- a means to widely disseminate their neuroimaging informatics tools or resources
- a means to collect user feedback that will help to make the neuroimaging informatics tools and resources more useful and useable by the neuroimaging research community
- a standard means to provide documentation and tutorials
- Community-based recommendations for guidelines and conventions

A complementary initiative, which is outside the scope of this current contract, will make funding (through supplements or other mechanisms) available to modify, document, and otherwise make more usable existing neuroimaging informatics tools and resources. These activities will be conducted with the developers of the neuroimaging informatics tools and resources. The supplemental funding would, for example, allow developers of particular informatics tools or resources to use the inputs from the user community and comments from the developer community to modify and enhance their neuroimaging informatics tools and resources (e.g., modifying code to accept new formats, developing documentation, etc.). The Clearinghouse must interact with these separately funded projects to produce a coordinated, coherent resource for neuroimaging research. It will build upon the significant investment already made in this area. This initiative is limited to neuroimaging informatics tools and resources used in functional magnetic resonance imaging and related structural magnetic resonance imaging.

Contractor:

TBD

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Acquisition history/Update of current status
- The project team developed a Statement of Work.
- The contracting office published a Sources Sought Market Survey on FedBizOpps at the end of 2005.   Five small businesses submitted capability statements in response.
- The SBA reviewed the capability statements and the project team's evaluations of these capability statements and determined that this acquisition be set aside for small business participation.
- The contracting office published a pre-solicitation synopsis on 3/14/2006.
- The contracting office issued a RFP on 3/30/2006, receipt date for the RFP was 5/30/2006
- Eleven proposals were received by the NIH
- Initial technical evaluation of the received proposals was conducted at the NIH on 6/27/2006.
- The contract is expected to be awarded by September 2006.

Opportunities for collaboration or synergy with the NCBCs:
The NCBC's are both major developers and users of neuroimaging informatics tools and resources. It is expected that the Clearinghouse and the complementary supplemental funding initiative mentioned above will directly interact with the NCBC grantees, in enhancing accessibility and adoptability of the tools and resources developed or used by the NCBCs. The supplemental funding would, for example, allow developers of particular informatics tools or resources to use the inputs from the user community and comments from the developer community to modify and enhance their neuroimaging informatics tools and resources (e.g., modifying code to accept new formats, developing documentation, etc.). The Clearinghouse must interact with separately NIH funded neuroimaging informatics projects including the NCBCs to produce a coordinated, coherent resource for neuroimaging research. The Clearinghouse must also interact with the NCBC in the development and adoption of terminologies and ontologies.

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